

Alaska Fire Numbers

2015



Disclaimer

- The numbers represented are a moment in time and are subject to change. All fires and acres as of September 15, 2015.
- Reported perimeter acreage was used as authoritative over user entered acres in the event of a discrepancy.
- Acres are rounded where applicable.
- Resource data gleaned from ROSS reports.



OUTLOOK – What we expected:

- The March Fire Potential Outlook anticipated an above-normal spring (April), and a return to normal in May and June due to a lack of strong indications that conditions would remain above normal.
- Significantly warmer than normal temperatures over most of Alaska.



OUTLOOK – What we experienced:

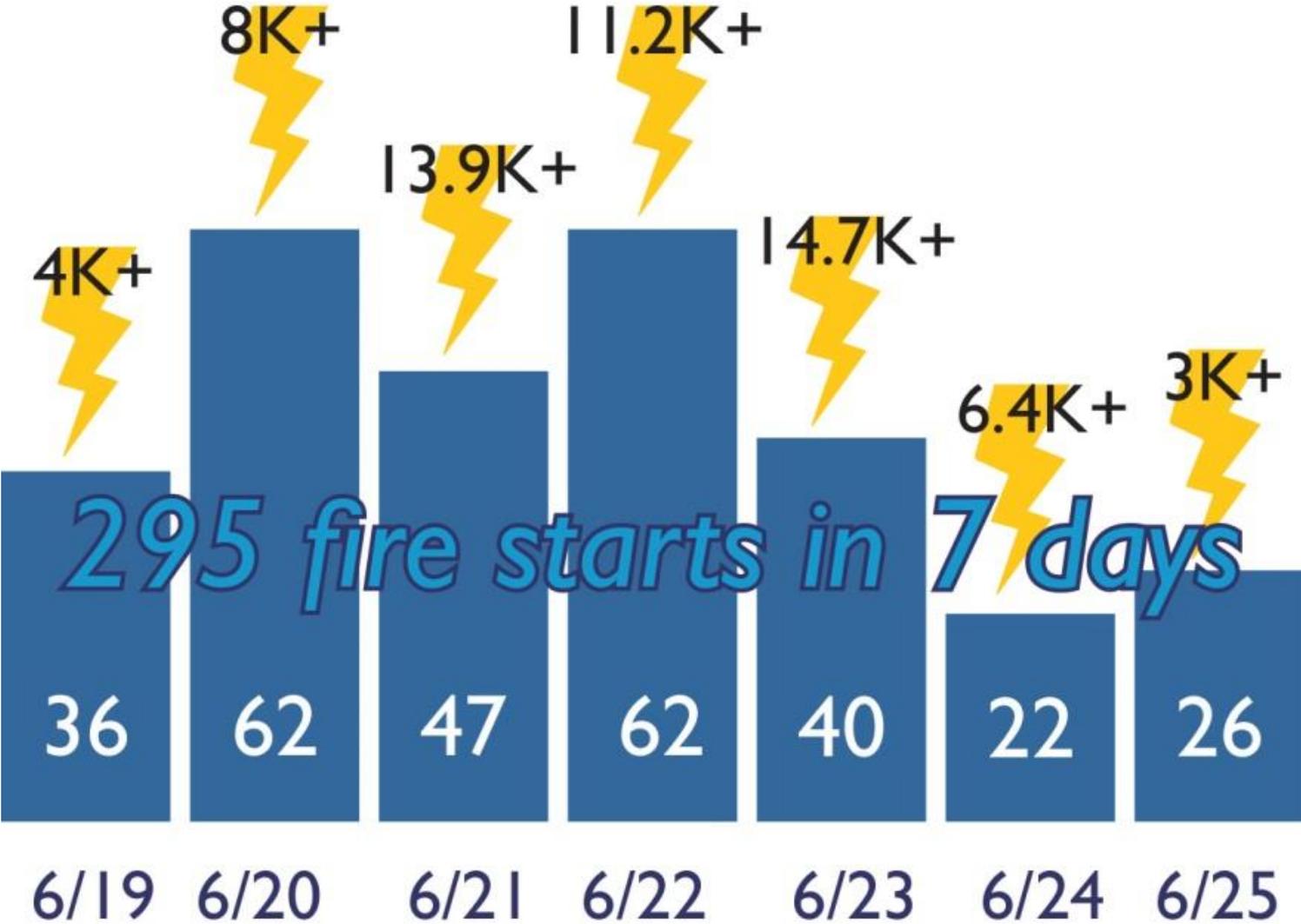
- A warm and very dry spring followed by a pattern that allowed significant lightning from slow moving thunderstorms. The storms dropped their rain over a limited area, leaving the periphery dry enough for the lightning to easily start fires. This pattern led to 295 fires in a seven day period.



- After the intense week with 295 fire starts, the overall summer weather was not extremely unusual. Late July and August rainfall ended fire season about the third week in August.
- This is considered pretty normal.



It was all about the lightning...over 61 thousand strikes in one week!



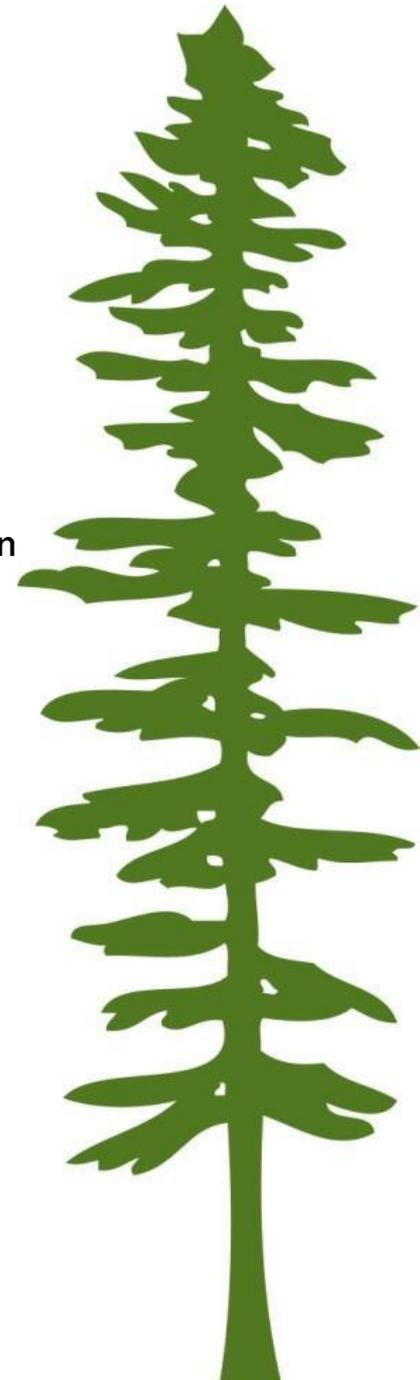
And the fuels...4 Fuels and Fire Behavior Advisories Issued

5/15-5/31: North of the Alaska Range focused along Tanana Valley
Early unseasonably warm and very dry weather, combined with
pre-green fuels.

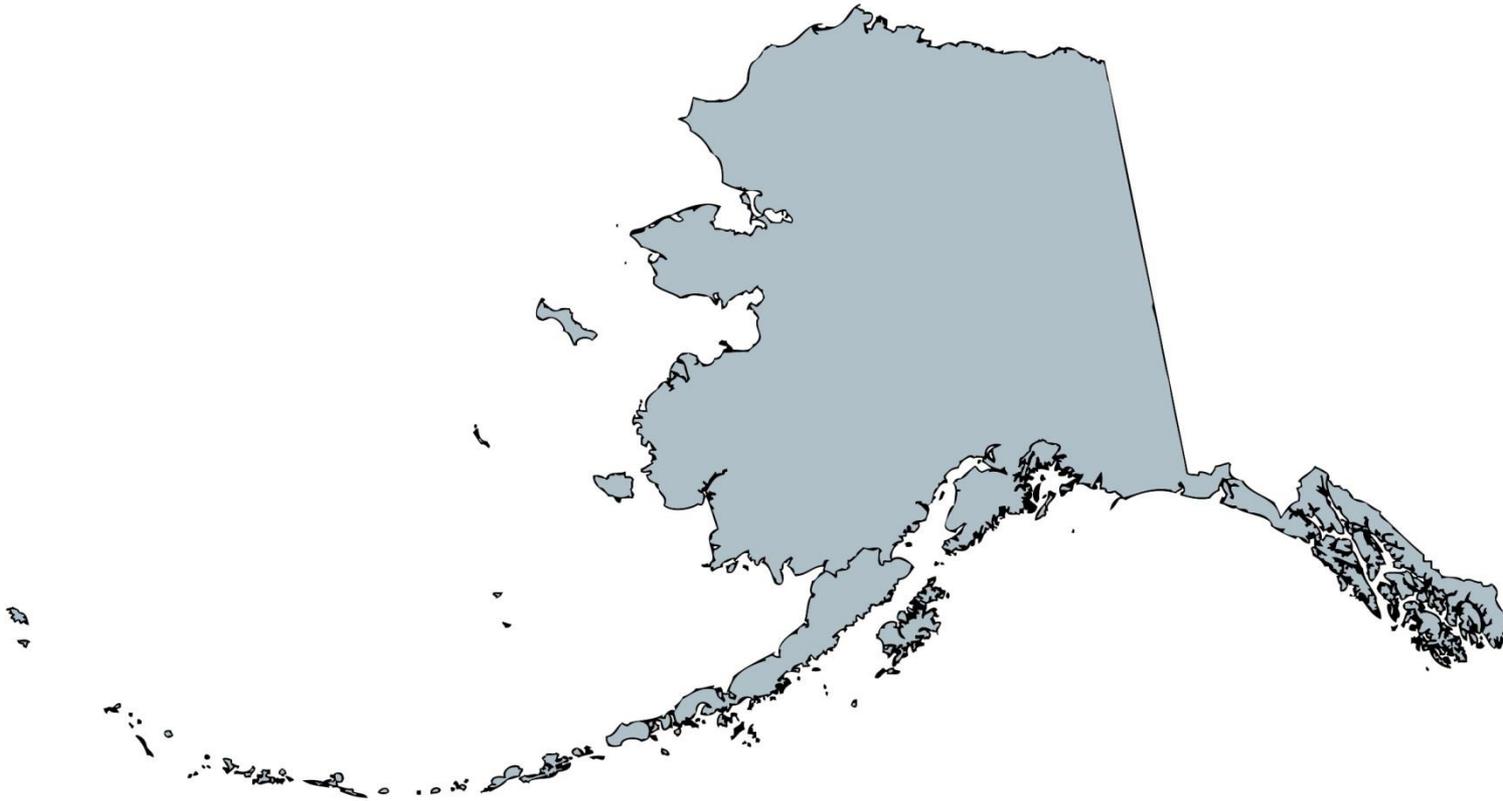
5/22-5/31: Tanana Valley, Upper Yukon Valley and Copper River Basin
Early unseasonably warm and very dry weather, combined with
pre-green fuels.

6/21-6/28: Much of the Interior Boreal Forest of Alaska
Peak season conditions, pushed by above normal temperatures and low
humidities, combined with fuels exposed to early season drying.

7/3-7/15: West and Central Interior of Alaska
Peak season conditions aggravated by above normal temperature and
lack of wetting rain.



FIRES and ACRES



5.1 Million Acres

766 Fires



 350 Human

 416 Lightning

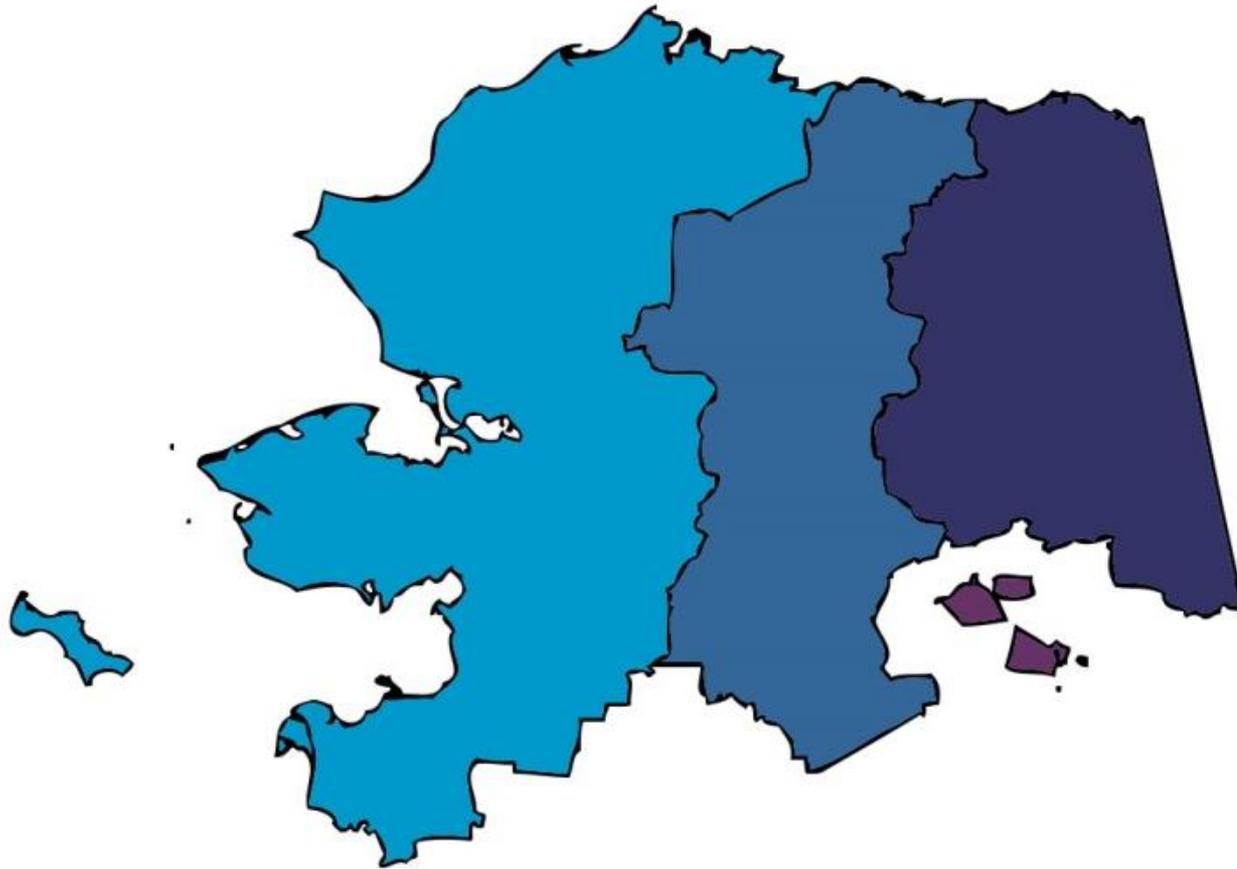


Statewide Fires and Acres Burned by Protection Agency and Management Option

Agency	Critical		Full		Modified		Limited		Totals	
	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres
Alaska Fire Service	3	42,403	54	681,152	22	378,134	182	2,963,425	261	4,065,114
State of Alaska	223	27,488	130	376,316	37	173,803	89	501,390	479	1,078,996
U.S. Forest Service	4	130	16	3	4	64	2	574	26	770
TOTALS	230	70,020	200	1,057,470	63	552,001	273	3,465,389	766	5,144,880



Alaska Fire Service ZONES

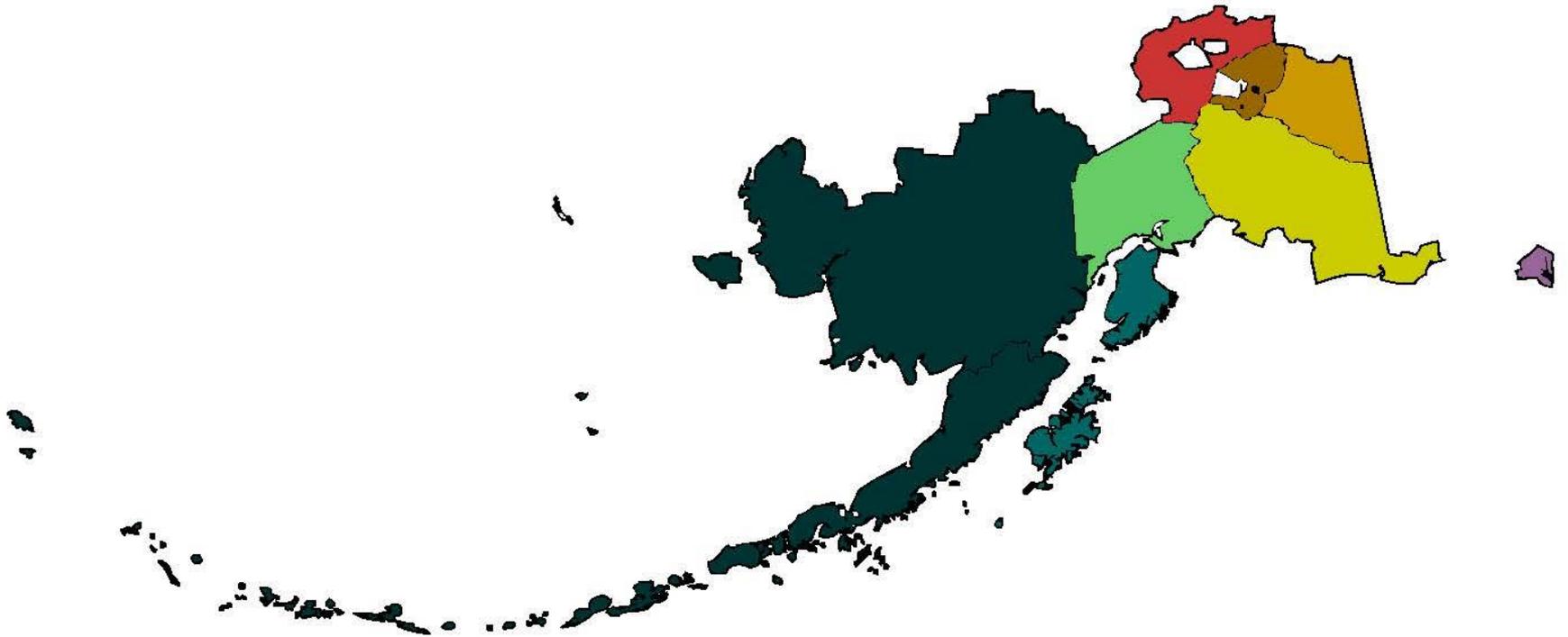


*Alaska Fire Service Protection Fires and Acres Burned
by Zone and Management Option*

Zone	Critical		Full		Modified		Limited		Totals	
	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres
Galena	1	42,403	19	115,806	10	202,389	64	873,172	94	1,233,769
Military	2	0	12	72	1	0	22	40,943	37	41,016
Tanana	0	-	14	562,160	5	111,681	75	1,873,732	94	2,547,573
Upper Yukon	0	-	9	3,114	6	64,065	21	175,578	36	242,757
TOTALS	3	42,403	54	681,152	22	378,134	182	2,963,425	261	4,065,114



State of Alaska AREAS



*State of Alaska Protection Fires and Acres Burned by Region/Area
and Management Option*

Area	Critical		Full		Modified		Limited		Totals	
	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres
Northern Region										
Copper River	14	2	12	26	5	12	10	891	41	932
Delta	7	2	12	22,120	2	1,002	0	-	21	23,124
Fairbanks	45	12	24	17,568	2	31,699	10	1,396	81	50,674
Tok	15	27,382	14	3,030	0	-	9	50,178	38	80,590
Southern Region										
Anchorage-Matsu	78	75	21	7,305	1	0	2	4	102	7,384
Kenai/Kodiak	60	12	8	13,738	0	-	1	335	69	14,085
Southwest	3	2	39	312,529	27	141,090	57	448,586	126	902,206
Haines	1	1	0	-	0	-	0	-	1	1
TOTALS	223	27,488	130	376,316	37	173,803	89	501,390	479	1,078,996



US Forest Service FORESTS



U.S. Forest Service Protection Fires and Acres by Forest and Management Option

Forest	Critical		Full		Modified		Limited		Totals	
	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres
Chugach National Forest	2	129	5	1	1	62	2	574	10	765
Tongass National Forest	2	0	11	2	3	2	0	-	16	5
TOTALS	4	130	16	3	4	64	2	574	26	770



LANDOWNER Percentage of Activity

Landowner Agency	Fires	Acres
Bureau of Indian Affairs	1%	0%
Bureau of Land Management	10%	32%
Department of Defense	5%	0%
Native Claims Act Land	15%	11%
National Park Service	3%	2%
Private	23%	0%
State of Alaska	32%	25%
US Forest Service	2%	0%
US Fish and Wildlife Service	10%	29%



COMPARISONS

<i>Statewide</i>		2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
Human	Fires	350	339	389	273	377	358	331	292	298	251	310
	Acres	26,653	222,899	161,082	33,813	25,235	107,029	56,721	42,858	205,696	132,772	182,842
Lightning	Fires	416	54	212	143	138	333	196	75	211	57	314
	Acres	5,118,227	10,631	1,158,785	253,075	267,783	1,018,708	2,894,872	60,792	443,716	133,496	4,480,977
TOTAL	Fires	766	393	601	416	515	691	527	367	509	308	624
	Acres	5,144,880	233,530	1,319,867	286,888	293,018	1,125,737	2,951,593	103,649	649,411	266,269	4,663,819
% Fires	Human	46%	86%	65%	66%	73%	52%	63%	80%	59%	81%	50%
	Lightning	54%	14%	35%	34%	27%	48%	37%	20%	41%	19%	50%

<i>State of Alaska</i>		2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
Human	Fires	291	288	335	235	312	267	249	210	208	209	224
	Acres	23,581	198,712	4,661	17,024	24,200	95,634	17,859	4,192	90,237	132,476	38,669
Lightning	Fires	188	16	112	34	44	63	81	44	76	40	122
	Acres	1,055,415	3,286	586,430	9,574	121,640	173,454	1,107,137	4,337	45,739	38,468	682,075
TOTAL	Fires	479	304	447	269	356	330	330	254	284	249	346
	Acres	1,078,996	201,998	591,091	26,598	145,839	269,088	1,124,995	8,529	135,976	170,943	720,745
% Fires	Human	61%	95%	75%	87%	87%	81%	75%	83%	73%	84%	65%
	Lightning	39%	5%	25%	13%	13%	19%	25%	17%	27%	16%	35%

<i>Alaska Fire Service</i>		2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
Human	Fires	37	23	31	25	38	63	40	77	81	31	29
	Acres	3,007	24,180	156,417	16,815	1,031	11,390	38,841	38,665	115,457	289	143,834
Lightning	Fires	224	38	100	109	94	268	112	31	135	17	190
	Acres	4,062,107	7,345	572,355	243,473	146,143	845,246	1,787,735	56,455	397,977	95,029	3,798,887
TOTAL	Fires	261	61	131	134	132	331	152	108	216	48	219
	Acres	4,065,114	31,525	728,772	260,288	147,174	856,636	1,826,576	95,120	513,433	95,318	3,942,721
% Fires	Human	14%	38%	24%	19%	29%	19%	26%	71%	38%	65%	13%
	Lightning	86%	62%	76%	81%	71%	81%	74%	29%	63%	35%	87%

<i>U.S. Forest Service</i>		2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
Human	Fires	22	28	23	13	27	28	42	5	9	11	57
	Acres	65	6	4	2	5	5	21	1	2	8	339
Lightning	Fires	4	0	0	0	0	2	3	0	0	0	2
	Acres	705	-	-	-	-	8	1	-	-	-	15
TOTAL	Fires	26	28	23	13	27	30	45	5	9	11	59
	Acres	770	6	4	2	27	12	22	1	2	8	353
% Fires	Human	85%	100%	100%	100%	100%	93%	93%	100%	100%	100%	97%
	Lightning	15%	0%	0%	0%	0%	7%	7%	0%	0%	0%	3%



Top 10 Fire Seasons

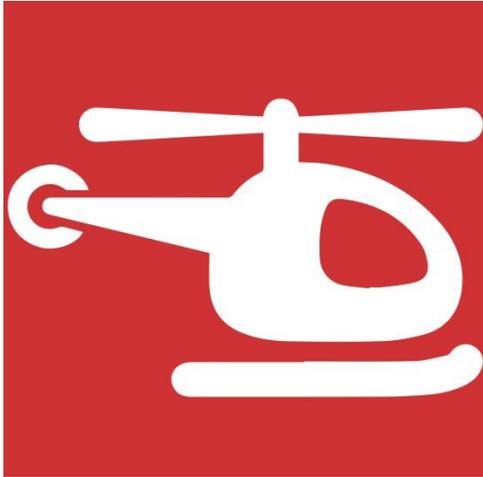
Year	Fires	Acres
2004	701	6,590,140
2015	766	5,144,880
1957	391	5,049,661
1939	200	5,000,000
2005	624	4,649,597
1940	130	4,500,000
1969	685	4,231,820
1941	138	3,654,774
1990	750	3,189,079
2009	516	2,934,608



RESOURCES



Aircraft



637 filled orders

82% from



8% from



Crews



448 filled orders

48% from



52% from



From



3 Hotshots

5 Type 21A Crews

42 Type 2 Crews

From



33 Hotshots

49 Type 21A Crews

22 Type 2 Crews

Equipment



182 filled engine
orders

Overhead



4,668 filled orders

50% from



50% from



Teams



One Type 1, Two Type 2, 13+ Type 3 (ad hoc)



One Wildland Fire Management, Nine Type 2,
Two Type 3, 14 Wildland Fire Modules



5 Airtankers
1 Air Tactical
4 Helicopters

412 Overhead
Type 1 Team

3 IHCs
6 T21A
25 T2

None



Alaskans to



What Made 2015 UNIQUE

*unique: being the only one of its kind;
unlike anything else*



24 days at PL 5



Lightning...and a
lot of it.

Over 61K strikes
in one week!



Extremely dry fuels!

Example:

- Sockeye initial attacked at 2 acres. By first Sit Report it was 6,500 acres.
- Card Street reported as 1 acre and grew to 1,200 on first day and 9,000 on the second.

Fires burnt readily in old fire scars.



Over 90 merged fires.

Largest fire: Big Creek Two – 433,685 acres.

- This single fire consumed 4 others.

– 312,918 Big Creek Two

– 35,748 Flint Creek

– 3,410 Tip Creek

– 52,108 Lost River

– 29,501 Trail Creek



22 jet loads from the Lower-48 mobilized crews.

Barges were hired to get food to fires along rivers.



Fires staffed continuously from May 16 to September 10.

- Peaked at 45 staffed fires on June 29/30.
- 999 personnel assigned on June 17, over 2,000 on June 23.
- By June 29 there were 3,174 personnel assigned to incidents.
- After July 13 the numbers dropped below 2,000.
- On July 28 personnel numbered less than 1,000.
- Finally on August 2 there were less than 500 personnel assigned to fires.



42 days with more than 20 staffed fires a day.

Nine days with more than 10 fires staffed.

51 total days of staffed fires over double digits.



Collaboratively produced by
AICC Predictive Services

